

**REMARKS**

Claims 27-41 were pending when the Office Action was mailed. No claims are amended or canceled by this response and claim 42 has been added. Accordingly, claims 27-42 are pending.

The Office Action rejected claims 27-41 based on U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0204625 ("Cain") alone or in combination with either U.S. Patent No. 6,987,764 or U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0235175. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Cain is directed to an ad-hoc network to perform reactive routing. This technique employs a clustering technique in which a cluster leader is identified for each cluster. Each cluster leader maintains a list of cluster leaders of adjacent clusters. Communications from a network node in one cluster to a network node in another cluster includes participation by the cluster leaders to identify routes. (Cain, 5:0057-0060 and 6:0062-0064.) One network node can then send messages to another network node via an identified route. (Cain, 6:0067.) Thus, network nodes inherently trust the identified cluster leaders in Cain's technique before a routing circuit is established.

In complete contrast, applicants' claimed technology administers "a network of non-trusting computing devices," as claim 1 recites. In applicants' technology, network nodes do not trust each other before a circuit is established. Newly added claim 42 makes this clear.

The Office Action points to nowhere in Cain that teaches or suggests non-trusting computing devices, and applicants are unable to find any such teaching or suggestion.

Because the applied references neither teach nor suggest the features discussed above, the independent claims cannot be rejected under either 35 USC §§ 102 or 103. Because the dependent claims import the limitations from the claims on which they depend, they also cannot be rejected under these statutes. Moreover, the claims recite a

novel combination of elements that is neither taught nor suggested by the applied references.

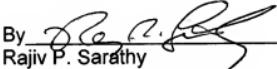
Based on these amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to phone the undersigned at (206) 359-6478.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 391258002US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated:

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Respectfully submitted,

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